

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The above amendments are made without prejudice and for purposes of correcting grammatical or typographic inconsistencies. As amended, Claim 8 has overcome the objection to the format. No new matter has been added. Claims 4-8 have been amended to remove the multiple dependency and Claim 5 has been amended to correct the spelling of "fibers".

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8 under 35 USC §102(e) over Amersfoort et al. is improper because the issue date of the reference is after the filing date of the priority document in this application. However, in order to advance prosecution, Applicant will assume for purposes of this rejection that the rejection relies on 35 USC §102(a) over Amersfoort et al.

In addition, the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8 over Amersfoort et al. as above, and further rejection of Claims 4 and 6 under 35 USC §103(a), relying also on Scifres et al., are also respectfully considered to be improper for the following substantive reasons.

It is respectfully submitted that the features recited in Claims 1-8 distinguish the cited references to Amersfoort et al. and Scifres et al.

In response to the claim rejections, it is respectfully suggested that Amersfoort et al. fail to disclose a significant feature recited in Claim 1, that is, a plurality of waveguides wherein each waveguide is arranged to lase upon exposure to the radiant pump energy emitted from the diodes. Amersfoort et al. teach toward a structure specifically designed for integrating or coupling light into many guides. There is no disclosure or teaching toward the underlying inventive concept of "side pumping" structure comprising the subject of the invention as recited in Claim 1. Therefore,

Claim 1 has not been substantively amended and is in substantially identical format, although minor changes have been incorporated into the claim to more clearly describe the inventive concept. It is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 is allowable, as amended, as it is novel and non-obvious, and correspondingly Claims 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8 are also considered allowable.

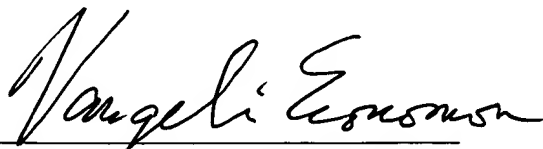
Referring to the obviousness rejection of Claim 4, it is submitted that neither Amersfoort et al. nor Scifres et al. teach toward the use of a diode bar which emits radiant pump energy and a plurality of waveguides arranged to lase on exposure to the radiant pump energy emitted by the diode. Furthermore, the mirror disclosed in Scifres et al. is used for the purpose of coupling light back into the laser light sources on the input ends of the fiber waveguides to produce a coherent light source. In contradistinction, the present invention utilizes the reflector 24 to reflect pumping wavelength energy back onto the waveguides so as to enhance operational characteristics (see, for example, page 3 lines 25-28). That is, the reflector 24 in the present invention is used for minimizing signal loss, whereas the partial reflector 1-7 in Scifres et al. is used to phase lock the lasers to produce a coherent light output. Thus, the reflectors are used for different purposes and so, a skilled addressee would not have combined the teachings of Amersfoort et al. and Scifres et al. to arrive at the present invention as claimed.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 6, when determining the invention as a whole, it is clear that Amersfoort et al. and Scifres et al., taken together, do not teach toward the broad invention as disclosed in Claim 1. That is, Claim 6, when taken in combination with Claim 1 is clearly novel and non-obvious over what is disclosed by Amersfoort et al. and Scifres et al.

It is considered that amendments to Claims 1 and 8 find support in the application specification as filed, and that the combination of elements recited in the amended Claims 1-8 distinguish over the references of record.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicit an indication of allowable subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vangelis Economou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Vangelis" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Economou".

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